

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification

Please replace the specification paragraph on Page 9, beginning at Line 28 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2 shows a supply chain for a manufacturer of items according to one embodiment of the invention. Each supplier 220 such as suppliers 220A through 220E supplies parts and/or raw materials, collectively called materials, to the manufacturer. Rather than maintaining a warehouse of materials, the manufacturer obtains materials from at least one external material source. Examples of external material sources include hub 230A, hub 230B, and hub 230C and suppliers 220A through 220E. Each hub is in close proximity to one of the manufacturer's factories, ~~each factory being a factory 240~~, such as factories 240A, 240B and 240C. Each factory has at least one manufacturing line such as manufacturing lines 242A through 242D. Each manufacturing line may have one or more manufacturing operations (not shown). For factories having multiple manufacturing lines, materials from hubs and suppliers are delivered directly to the operation and/or manufacturing line that needs the material rather than to a general delivery area that serves all operations and/or manufacturing lines for the entire factory.

Please replace the specification paragraph on Page 11, beginning at Line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

More specifically, at time 0:00, data is loaded into a planning module 310A so that a first production scheduling and planning cycle may be executed (Planning 1). The data that is loaded includes customer orders and available inventory. The planning module ~~310A develops~~ 310A develops a material request plan that schedules work and deliveries of materials to the factory's operations and/or manufacturing lines. Available inventory includes external inventory as shown in external inventory data, in this case, the hub's inventory data. Available inventory also includes in-house inventory of materials that were requested and delivered from an external material source, but that are not currently allocated to a customer order.

Please replace the specification paragraph on Page 16, beginning at Line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 5 shows the interaction of the demand fulfillment system 510 with a high level order process. More specifically, the demand fulfillment system 510 is coupled to and interacts with the manufacturing line 242. The demand fulfillment system 510 also interacts with and is coupled to a ~~supplier~~ supplier hub 230, which is an example of an external material source. The ~~supplier~~ supplier hub 230 receives material from suppliers 220 and provides material to the manufacturing line 242. The hub 230 receives information regarding material delivery schedule from the demand fulfillment system 510. The demand fulfillment system 510 also provides information regarding a work schedule to the manufacturing line 242 and receives information regarding material arrival from the manufacturing line 242. The demand fulfillment system 510 also recalculates planned requests during the execution of the planning cycle based upon actual material delivered. The manufacturing line 242 ships the product to the customer 250 via the shipping process 255.

Please delete the specification paragraphs on Page 23, beginning at Line 26 through Page 24, ending at Line 21.

Please replace the specification paragraph on Page 26, beginning at Line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

If the order is a time of day candidate, then the dynamic logistics routing system determines a carrier service based upon a plurality of shipping characteristics. More specifically, the dynamic logistics routing system determines viable carriers for the order service level, the cost for shipping the order, the time in transit (TNT) while taking into account time of day shipping considerations at step 1160. Once these considerations are determined then the order ships out of the appropriate shipping facility for the carrier service at step ~~1156~~ 1162.